Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for providing email communications, comprising:

a memory;

a processor coupled to the memory and configured to execute an e-mail client application, which includes:

message composition logic operable to present a write e-mail window including a message editor pane to a user and to compose ~~a message~~ an e-mail text message to at least one recipient responsive to accepting entry of text of a body of the e-mail text message in a text format into the message editor pane wherein entry of the text is accepted from the user;

write protect logic operable to protect the e-mail text message against subsequent alteration by the at least one recipient, ~~upon receiving a user indication from the user to;~~ wherein the write protect logic is configured to,

accept a user choice whether to write protect the e-mail text message,

responsive to the user choosing to write protect the e-mail text message, enable the write protect logic through conversion of a format of the text in the body of the e-mail text message from the text format to a picture format protected against subsequent alterations, and send the e-mail text message to the at least one recipient after conversion of the format of the text from the text format to the picture format protected against subsequent alterations, and

responsive to the user choosing not to write protect the e-mail text message, send the e-mail text message to the at least one recipient in the text format without conversion to the picture format.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the e-mail text message converted to the picture format is included as an inline image within the transmitted e-mail text message.

4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the e-mail text message in the picture format is stored on a central server for retrieval by the recipient.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the text in the body of the e-mail text message converted to the picture format is included as an attachment to the transmitted e-mail text message.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the picture format is a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) file.

7. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the picture format is a graphics image format (GIF) file.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the write protect logic comprises conversion logic operable to convert the text in the body of the e-mail text message from the text format to a portable document format (PDF).

9. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the composition logic is operable to allow the user to compose a new e-mail text message, a reply to a received e-mail text message or forward a received e-mail text message.

10. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the client further comprises a user interface operable to allow the user to select a plurality of options, including enabling the write protect logic.

11. (currently amended) A method of protecting e-mail, the method comprising:

presenting a write email window including a message editor pane;

enabling a user to draft ~~a message~~ an e-mail text message by accepting entry of text of a body of the e-mail text message in a text format into the message editor pane;

accepting a user choice whether to write protect the e-mail text message;

responsive to the user choosing to write protect the e-mail text message, converting a content of the text in the body of the e-mail text message from the text format to a write-protected picture format such that subsequent recipients are inhibited from altering the content in the body of the e-mail text message, wherein converting the content of the text in the body of the e-mail text message comprises converting the content of the text in the body of the e-mail text message into a write-protected picture format ~~in response to, receiving an instruction from the user to write protect the e-mail text message, and receiving an instruction from the user to send the e-mail text message to a recipient; and~~, and sending the e-mail text message to at least one recipient in the write-protected picture format after converting the content to the write-protected picture format; and

responsive to the user choosing not to write protect the e-mail text message, sending the e-mail text message to the at least one recipient in the text format without conversion to the write protected picture format.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a portable document format (PDF).

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a graphics image format (GIF).

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the write-protected picture format comprises a joint photographic experts group (JPEG).

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:

enabling the user to choose whether to protect the <u>e-mail text</u> message or not;

wherein converting the content in the body of the <u>e-mail text</u> message into the write-protected picture format is performed responsive to a choice of the user.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the <u>e-mail text</u> message is stored on a central server for viewing by the user.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the <u>e-mail text</u> message is downloaded to a computer for viewing by the user.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the content in the body of the <u>e-mail text</u> message in the write-protected picture format is included in the sent <u>e-mail text</u> message as an inline image file.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the content in the body of the <u>e-mail text</u> message in the write-protected picture format is included in the sent <u>e-mail text</u> message as an attachment.

21. (new) The system of claim 1,

wherein the message composition logic is configured to compose a first e-mail text message responsive to accepting entry of first text of a first body of the first e-mail text message in the text format from the user,

wherein the write protect logic is configured to accept a first user choice to write protect the first e-mail text message, to convert the format of the first text in the body of the first e-mail text message from the text format to the picture format protected against subsequent alterations, and to send the first e-mail text message after conversion of the format of the first text from the text format to the picture format protected against subsequent alterations,

wherein the message composition logic is configured to compose a second e-mail text message responsive to accepting entry of second text of a second body of the second e-mail text message in the text format from the user, and

wherein the write protect logic is configured to accept a second user choice to not write protect the second e-mail text message, and to send the second e-mail text message in the text format without converting to the picture format.

22. (new) The method of claim 11 further comprising,

wherein enabling a user to draft an e-mail text message comprises accepting entry of first text of a first body of a first e-mail text message in the text format from the user, and accepting entry of second text of a second body of a second e-mail text message in the text format from the user,

wherein accepting a user choice comprises accepting a first user choice to write protect the first e-mail text message and accepting a second user choice not to write protect the second e-mail text message,

wherein converting a content of the text comprises converting a content of the first text in the body of the first e-mail text message from the text format to the write-protected picture format such that subsequent recipients are inhibited from altering the content in the body of the first e-mail text message, and sending the first e-mail text message to the at least one recipient in the write-protected picture format after converting the content to the write-protected picture format, and

wherein sending the e-mail text message without conversion comprises sending the second e-mail text message in the text format without converting to the picture format.